

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04966 291406Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /052 W

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R 291033Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9488

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PINS, NI

SUBJECT: DR. MADUNAGU RELEASED FROM DETENTION

REF: (A) LAGOS A-27, MARCH 6, 1975

(B) LAGOS 1460, (C) LAGOS 1551, (D) IBADAN 209

1. SUMMARY: UNILAG MATHEMATICS LECTURER DR. EDWIN IKECHUKWU (EDDY) MADUNAGU, ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN CIRCULATION OF FALSE ARMED FORCES PAY SCALES AND OTHER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, WHOSE DETENTION FUELLED FEBRUARY'S STUDENT UNREST, HAS BEEN QUIETLY RELEASED FROM POLICE CUSTODY. END SUMMARY.

2. MAY 28 EDITION OF DAILY TIMES (ONLY PAPER SO FAR TO CARRY STORY) REPORTS THAT MADUNAGU WAS RELEASED AFTERNOON OF MAY 26. MADUNAGU SEEMS TO HAVE MADE NO EFFORTS TO PUBLICIZE HIS LIBERATION. HE WAS "CORNERED" BY A TIMES REPORTER THE NIGHT OF MAY 27 IN A UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA "APPARENTLY HAPPY TO BE AMONG HIS STUDENTS." MADUNAGU THANKED NIGERIAN PRESS, UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND PUBLIC FOR AGITATING FOR HIS RELEASE, BUT REFUSED TO DISCUSS HIS EXPERIENCES IN DETENTION (THREE OF MADUNAGU'S COMRADES REMAIN IN CUSTODY).

3. IN STATEMENT MARCH 3 (REF.A) FEDERAL INFORMATION COMMISSIONER CLARK ATTEMPTED TO IMPLICATE MADUNAGU AND HIS FELLOW DETAINEES
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 04966 291406Z

NOT ONLY IN MALICIOUS PAY SCALE EPISODE BUT ALSO IN STIRRING

UP STUDENT LABOR UNREST. IN INTERVIEW WITH TIMES REPORTER
MADUNAGU REPEATED CHALLENGE TO CLARK, MADE PREVIOUSLY BY
STUDENTS, TO SUBSTANTIATE THESE CHARGES.

4. COMMENT: IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHETHER RELEASE OF MADUNAGU
REFLECTS DAWNING FMG REALIZATION THAT DETENTION OF WELL-KNOWN
FIGURES DOES NOT WORK TO ITS ADVANTAGE. RELEASES OCCUR SO
SPORADICALLY THAT IT IS HARD TO DISCERN TRENDS. DETENTION OF
VIRTUALLY ANONYMOUS PERSONS, SUCH AS 27 DISSIDENT FARMERS IN
WESTERN STATE (REF.D) STILL SEEMS EFFECTIVE MEANS OF CON-
TROLLING UNREST. FMG APPEARS TO HAVE TIMED MADUNAGU'S RELEASE
TO COINCIDE WITH PRESS HOOPLA OVER ECOWAS HEADS OF STATE MEETING
IN LAGOS, CALCULATING CORRECTLY THAT EVENT WOULD GO ALMOST
UNNOTICED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. RELEASE APPEARS TO LEAVE COMMIS-
SIONER CLARK WITH HIS FOOT IN HIS MOUTH, A POSITION HE HAS
ASSUMED ALL TOO FREQUENTLY IN OPINION OF SOME--INCLUDING
REPORTEDLY GENERAL GOWON.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

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